

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-20 are pending. Claims 1, 7 and 15 are amended and claim 6 is cancelled. In particular, the allowable features of claim 6 have been incorporated into claim 1.

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3-20.

Claims 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. By this amendment, the preamble of claim 15 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over JP-A-10-297437 has been rendered moot because the allowable features of claim 6 have been incorporated into claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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